THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFIC

LITTLE et al.

Serial No.: 08/786,988

Filed: January 23, 1997

FOR For: SYSTEMS AND **METHODS** PREPARING AND ANALYZING LOW

VOLUME ANALYTE ARRAY ELEMENTS

Art Unit: 1743

Examiner: Gakh, Y. CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL"

"Express Mail" Mailing Label Number

EV335464722US

Date of Deposit September 18, 2003

I hereby certify that this paper and the attached papers are being deposited with the United States Postal "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Service under 37 C.F.R. §1.10 on the date

indicated above and addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

09/18/03

Date Tim Chettiath

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT WITH RCE

Mail Stop RCE Commissioner for Patents U.S. Patent and Trademark Office P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This Response, which is responsive to the final Office Action mailed March 18, 2003, is filed with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). Entry of the following amendment and consideration of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of the claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 16 of this paper.

09/23/2003 AWDNDAF1 00000082 08786988

02 FC:2253

465.00 OP